



NASA Weekly Update

Week of February 26 – March 5, 2007

March 4: Space Shuttle Atlantis Rolls Back: Space Shuttle Atlantis has rolled back to the Vehicle Assembly Building from Launch Pad 39A. The vehicle was rolled back due to hail damage that occurred on the tank during a severe thunderstorm that happened on Feb. 26. The vehicle was "hard down" inside the Vehicle Assembly Building around 5:49 p.m. on Sunday, March 4. Once an up-close look at the



Space Shuttle Atlantis rolls back to the Vehicle Assembly Building.

damage is complete, the type of repair required and the time needed for that work can be determined. Mission STS-117 to the International Space Station will be scheduled sometime after a Russian Soyuz spacecraft returns from the station. The Soyuz is delivering new station crew members and returning others to Earth in late April. Adequate time is needed between the Soyuz undocking and the shuttle's arrival to the station. For more information, visit: www.nasa.gov/shuttle.

Feb 28: NASA Spacecraft Gets Boost from Jupiter for Pluto Encounter: NASA's New Horizons spacecraft successfully completed a flyby of Jupiter early Wednesday morning, using the massive planet's gravity to pick up speed for its 3-billion mile voyage to

Pluto and the unexplored Kuiper Belt region beyond. New Horizons came within 1.4 million miles of Jupiter at 12:43 a.m. EST, placing the spacecraft on target to reach the Pluto system in July 2015. For the latest news and images from the New Horizons mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/newhorizons>.

March 1: NASA Receives Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer: NASA was honored Thursday for achievement in successfully conducting a broad range of technology transfer activities. The International Marketplace and Conference for Technology Transfer (IPTEC), St. Albans, England, presented the award to NASA during its conference in Cannes, France. NASA's Director of the Innovative Partnerships Program Doug Comstock accepted the award on behalf of the agency. To learn more about the Innovative Partnerships Program, visit: <http://www.ipp.nasa.gov>.

March 1: NASA Awards Configuration and Data Management Services Contract: NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center has awarded COLSA Corporation of Huntsville, Ala., a contract to provide configuration and data management services at the center. COLSA will provide configuration management and data management services to support various Marshall directorates, offices, programs and projects.

Feb 27: Independent Space Station Task Force Releases Final Report: The International Space Station Independent Safety Task Force's final report is now available online. The report was released simultaneously Tuesday to Congress, NASA and the public. To view the report online visit the task force and main space station Web sites at: https://onemis.nasa.gov/iss_safety and <http://www.nasa.gov/station>.

Feb 27: NASA Completes Contract Award for Space Program Operations: NASA has completed a modification to convert the letter contract with United Space Alliance (USA), LLC, of Houston, to a fully defined contract covering space shuttle and

International Space Station program operations for a base period from Oct. 1, 2006, through Sept. 30, 2010. The contract is valued at \$6.34 billion. For more information about NASA and agency programs, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov>.

Feb 26: NASA Announces Undersea Mission to Include First Flight Surgeon: NASA will send a flight surgeon, two astronauts and a Cincinnati doctor into the ocean depths off the Florida coast May 7-18 to test space medicine concepts and moon-walking techniques. It is the first undersea mission to include a NASA flight surgeon. For more information about the NEEMO 12 crew, its mission and Aquarius, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/neemo> and <http://www.uncw.edu/aquarius>.

Weekly Status Reports



The International Space Station's Expedition 14 crew continued work this week on scientific experiments, station maintenance and clean up following a Feb. 22 Russian spacewalk. An altitude reboost engine firing planned for Friday was postponed following the launch delay of Space Shuttle Atlantis earlier this week. The STS-117 mission was targeted for liftoff on March 15. The shuttle mission was put on hold following a hail storm Monday. The storm caused damage requiring repair to the shuttle's external fuel tank foam.

Russian flight controllers now plan two engine firings on March 16 and 28 to increase the station's altitude, which will place the station in the desired orbit for arrival of a Soyuz spacecraft due to launch April 7. The Soyuz will bring Expedition 15 Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin, Flight Engineer Oleg Kotov and spaceflight participant Charles Simonyi to the station. Docking to the station is due April 9. Expedition 14 Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria, Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin and Simonyi plan to land in Kazakhstan April 19.

Space station managers are reviewing the work planned aboard the station for the remaining weeks of Expedition 14 and for Expedition 15 in light of the shuttle launch delay. The review seeks to optimize use of the crews' time due to the shuttle's delay. The station crew Thursday was awakened briefly by a caution signal when the starboard Thermal Radiator

Rotary Joint (TRRJ) experienced a dropout in commands from the Rotary Joint Motor Controller. The TRRJ automatically defaulted to another command link, and there was no impact to operations. Engineers are analyzing what may have caused the problem. The rotary joint turns the radiator to provide the best possible cooling.

Flight Engineer Sunita Williams practiced on a laptop computer simulation Wednesday to maintain her skill in using the station's Canadarm2 robotic arm.



Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin, wearing a Russian Orlan spacesuit, participates in a spacewalk.

For more about the crew's activities and station sighting opportunities, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>.



Upcoming Events

- **April 7:** Launch of the Expedition 15 crew. The crew includes Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin and Flight Engineer Oleg Kotov. Sunita Williams will finish her remaining time of her six-month tour of duty on the station as a member of Expedition 15 crew.
- **April 18:** Landing of the Expedition 14 crew at Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome. The crew includes Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria, Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin, and Flight Engineer Sunita Williams.
- **Targeted for Late April:** Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis from Kennedy Space Center for mission STS-117 to the International Space Station.

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